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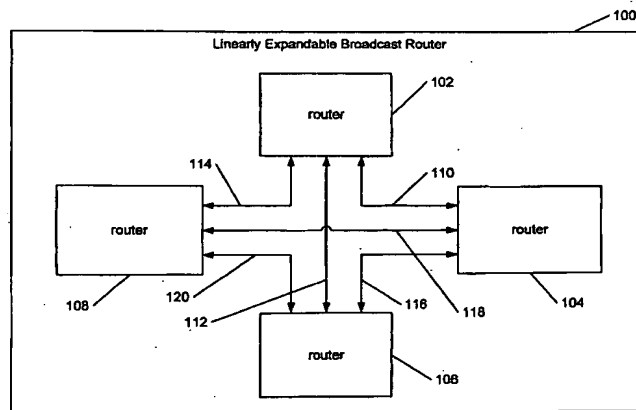
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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **THOMSON LICENSING S.A.** [FR/FR]; 46, Quai A. Le Gallo, F-92648 Boulogne (FR).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **CHRISTENSEN, Carl** [US/US]; 2360 Bridle Oak Drive, South Jordan, UT 84095 (US). **BYTHEWAY, David, Lynn** [US/US]; 5957 Blue Stone Circle, Murray, UT 84123 (US). **HAYDEN,**
- (74) Agents: **TRIPOLI, Joseph, S. et al.**; c/o Thomson Licensing Inc., 2 Independence Way, Suite 200, Princeton, NJ 08540 (US).
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(54) Title: LINEARLY EXPANDABLE BROADCAST ROUTER APPARATUS



(57) Abstract: A linearly expandable router (100) is comprised of first, second, third and fourth router components (102, 104, 106 and 108). First, second and third discrete links (110, 112 and 114) couple an input side of a routing engine (128) of the first router component (102) to an input side of a routing engine (128) of the second, third and fourth router components (104, 106 and 108). Similarly, fourth and fifth discrete links (116 and 118) couple the input side of the routing engine (128) for the second router component (104) to the input side of the routing engine (128) of the third and fourth router components (106 and 108), respectively. Finally, a sixth discrete link (120) couples the input side of the routing engine (128) for the third router component (106) to the input side of the router engine (128) for the fourth router component (108).